

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-17. (cancelled)

18. (previously presented) A nucleic acid encoding for a protein with endoribonucleasic activity wherein said protein with endoribonucleasic activity is characterized in that it is polyU and single filament specific, Mn^{++} ions dependent and able to release 2'-3' cyclic phosphate and 5'OH ends cleavage products.

19. (previously presented) The nucleic acid according to claim 18 substantially including SEQ ID No 1 nucleotide sequence, functional homologs thereof or a complementary sequence thereto.

20. (previously presented) A recombinant vector able to express effectively the inventive nucleic acid in prokaryotes according to claim 18.

21. (previously presented) The recombinant vector able to express effectively the inventive nucleic acid in eukaryotes according to claim 18.

22-34. (cancelled)